

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

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R 111340Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9149

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT CSCE CZ

SUBJECT: OPENING OF CZECHOSLOVAK OFFENSIVE UPON HELSINKI

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROVISIONS

REF: PRAGUE A-139, OCT 28, 1975

1. OVER PAST TWO WEEKS CZECHOSLOVAK PUBLIC ATTENTION TO HELSINKI AGREEMENT HAS CONSIDERABLY SHIFTED FROM BASKETS ONE AND TWO TO BASKET THREE PROVISIONS ON CULTURAL AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

2. ARGUMENTS BY MEDIA TO DAMPEN STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THESE PROVISIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. COMPLETE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION INCOMPATIBLE WITH HELSINKI PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY;

B. BLAME FOR ANY GAP IN CULTURAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BELONGS TO WEST WHICH WOULD MISUSE CERTAIN HELSINKI PROVISIONS FOR SUBVERSION.

C. EAST ALREADY COMPLIES BETTER THAN THE WEST, I.E.,

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STATISTICS ARE USED TO SHOW THAT MORE TV, FILMS AND BOOKS OF

WESTERN ORIGIN ARE AVAILABLE IN EAST THAN EASTERN MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE WEST.

D. EAST WILL INCREASE ITS COMPLIANCE FURTHER BY IMPORTING MORE AND MORE TALENT AND SPOKESMEN FROM "PROGRESSIVE" ELEMENTS OF WEST.

E. FINALLY, AS IT APPEARED IN OCTOBER 29 TVORBA ARTICLE, SUGGESTION IS MADE THAT SERIOUS EXCHANGES MUST FIRST WAIT RESOLUTION OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

3. THIS GROWING PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER EXCHANGE ALSO FOUND IN NOVEMBER 6TH SPEECHES BY PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR MATSKEVICH AT PRAGUE RALLY CELEBRATING OCTOBER REVOLUTION. STROUGAL TOUCHED ON IT OBLIQUELY BY PROTESTING WESTERN FORCES WHICH BRING ELEMENTS OF COLD AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BACK INTO THE AREA OF IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. MATSKEVICH WAS MORE SPECIFIC WHEN HE COMPLAINED THAT THESE FORCES ATTEMPTED "TO GARBLE AND INTERPRET WRONGLY INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES OF THE FINAL DECLARATION, OUT OF THEIR CONTEXT AND USE THEM FOR IDEOLOGICAL DIVERSION AGAINST THE USSR AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."
PERRY

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